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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

8 December 1952

STAFF MEMORANDUM NO. 294

SUBJECT: Post-Mortem on NIE-72: "Probable Developments in the Union of South Africa," dated 20 October 1952.

25X1A5a1 1. At O/NE's recommendation the IAC on 21 May 1952 directed initiation of NIE-72; terms of reference were approved by the IAC agencies on 24 June; contributions were received by 26 July; the O/NE staff draft was distributed for Board consideration on 15 September; and the final text was approved by the IAC on 16 October. [REDACTED] consultants did not consider the estimate.

2. No important substantive differences were encountered. One meeting of the IAC representatives sufficed to deal with the draft estimate, and telephone concurrences were obtained for the subsequent textual emendations. The nearest approach to substantive disagreement related to the likelihood of civil war between opposing white groups in South Africa. The Air Force regarded such a development as slightly more likely than the other agencies, but it was satisfied with a minor re-phrasing of the pertinent passages of the draft estimate.

3. The outstanding intelligence gap regarding South Africa concerns the extent of organization, leadership, plans, resources, and capabilities of the non-European population, particularly the natives. The Washington intelligence community is not at present divided over these questions, but our factual information on them is scanty. The other IAC agencies, OIR in particular, are already cognizant of this problem.

4. Recommendation:

That the Board recommends to the IAC agencies that no post-mortem be made on NIE-72.

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒
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